

## Congresswoman McCollum's Press Conference

My name is Dana H. Babbitt and I have the privilege of being the Superintendent of South St. Paul Public Schools. I am here today because I am frustrated. I am frustrated that the Federal government is continuing to decrease their funding for education. I am frustrated Minnesota was only one of two states in the entire nation to have their Title One funds cut. In SSP our funds were reduced 25% and that resulted in the layoff of all our classroom aides. I am frustrated Congress just authorized a 21% cut in Title IV A Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities monies. I am frustrated Congress continues to spend \$2 Billion a year on NCLB which is an under-funded, over regulated program that actually impedes educational improvement. I am also frustrated NCLB is touted as delivering an equitable education throughout the nation. Minnesota has many schools not making AYP and Mississippi and Arkansas have almost none. I am frustrated the Federal government has not lived up to an almost 30 year old promise to fund Special Education at the 40% level. If this were funded as promised, it would bring an additional \$2.2 million dollars a year to South St. Paul Schools alone. That is almost the same amount as our <sup>region's</sup> ~~last~~ operating referendum. In fact it has been estimated 65% of the referendums in place in the state would not have been necessary had the 40% funding been provided as promised. In short I am frustrated that this administration does not appear to value education and the important place it plays in the future of our students and our country and instead just authorized an additional 1% cut of all programs. ~~last week~~

*Congresswoman  
Dana H. Babbitt*

I am worried about the state of this union and its educational future.